



**HAMILTON COUNTY**  
**LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE**

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**MINUTES**

**LEPC Meeting, July 18, 2001**

A meeting of the Hamilton County Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) was held July 18, 2001 at the Barnhill's Buffet on Gunbarrel Rd., Chattanooga, Tennessee.

Those in attendance were:

Bruce Garner, Chairman, Chattanooga Fire Department  
Larry Martin, Vice Chairman, McKee Foods  
Jamie Farrow, Vice Chairman, Conagra Poultry  
Joyce Wagner, Vice Chairman, SI Industries  
Bob Diehl, Vice Chairman, Electric Transit Vehicle Institute  
Wayne Stuntz, Secretary/Treasurer/Title III Coordinator  
Amy Maxwell, Hamilton County Emergency Services  
Tony Reavley, Hamilton County Emergency Services  
Buddy Kamin, Hamilton County Emergency Services  
Jeff Fiore, Hamilton County Emergency Services (Intern)  
Billy Mullins, Tennessee State Guard  
Wayne Foster, Tennessee State Guard  
Mike Edwards, McKee Foods  
Dusty Rominger, W.R. Grace  
Denny Day, FHI  
Caroline Williams, League of Women Voters  
Mike Beavers, TVA-Sequoyah  
Charlie Lamar, Brenntag  
Tim Nance, DPC Enterprises  
C.R. Goodner, RACES  
Terry Million, Dupont  
George Sivils, Dupont  
Timothy Langford, Chattanooga Storm Water  
Dane Creel, Nabisco, Inc.  
Brian Lopez-Cepero, Chattanooga Police Dept.  
Danny Jennings, Wheland Foundry (Guest)  
Larry Bowers, Wheland Foundry (Guest)  
Jeff Bates, Wheland Foundry (Guest)

Chairman Bruce Garner called the meeting to order at 10:43 a.m. and welcomed all in attendance. For the benefit of those attending the meeting for the first time, Mr. Garner asked each person to introduce themselves.

The Chairman made certain that each member in attendance had received a copy of the agenda for the meeting and those that did not were provided a copy.

### **Old Business**

The Chairman then asked if all had received the minutes of January 17, 2001 meeting. He then he called for a motion to approve the minutes as written. There being no request for correction or discussion, Bob Diehl made the motion to approve the minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Jamie Farrow, followed by committee approval.

The Chairman then asked the Treasurer for the LEPC's financial report. Mr. Stuntz presented a visual presentation (via projector) of the LEPC financial account showing the current balance. Mr. Stuntz said that on June 12, the LEPC's financial account was changed (with Executive Committee approval) from a regular checking account to a Primary Money Market account, which will earn interest. He told the committee that the account must maintain a daily minimum balance of \$1,500 to avoid a monthly fee. Mr. Stuntz said that before it reached that level, the account could and would be changed back into a normal checking account. A copy of the Hamilton County LEPC's financial report is a matter of LEPC record.

### **New Business**

The Chairman then introduced the guest speaker, Mr. Bill Tittle, Chief of Hamilton County Emergency Management. Mr. Tittle gave a powerful presentation on the terrorism threat and the need for preparedness at all levels. He covered such areas as: how terrorism is carried out; a comprehensive assessment of the threat, risks, capabilities and needs assessment; the risks to Hamilton County's infrastructure and our capabilities as responders—stressing that Hamilton County's number one risk is HAZMAT risk. He also stressed the need for heightened awareness, planning, training and equipment upgrades for first responders, and that grants were available to help defray the cost of updating equipment.

Mr. Tittle also spoke about the need for clear lines of authority and how important it is to have an "official" representative from organizations involved at the Incident Command location. He pointed out that the LEPC was a very important organization in the community and urged all companies to join in the partnership. Chief

### **New Business (Cont.)**

Tittle said local companies provide good products and good jobs here in Chattanooga, but with that comes responsibility. He said local companies must also shoulder the serious responsibility to ensure their operations are run cleanly and safely. Public safety issues involve company employees, not just emergency responders. In short, he said, "You are part of the Plan." The Chairman thanked Mr. Tittle for his very informative presentation. A copy of this presentation is on file in the LEPC office.

The Chairman then addressed a concern posed to him by Chief Nichols of the Chattanooga Fire Department. The concern addressed ongoing northbound road construction on SR-153. The northbound lanes are being widened about 5-6 feet, which places northbound traffic even closer to the Colonial Pipeline facility just off Jersey Pike. The concern is that a vehicle could easily run off the road in the direction of the facility and possibly cause severe damage to a 50,000 gallon per hour (gph) diesel pipeline located on the facilities proper. Chief Nichols asked the Chairman if he would address the issue with TDOT by writing a letter asking that a substantial barrier (e.g. concrete wall) be erected along the highway near the facility to prevent such a disaster from occurring. A photo of this area is on file with the LEPC.

The Chairman then asked for progress reports from subcommittee co-chairs.

- Ms. Jamie Farrow, co-chair of the Exercise Subcommittee, said that the Exercise Committee met with local responders to commit to the date of November 7 for the LEPC exercise. Ms. Farrow said they decided to base the mock drill around a liquid natural gas release. Other details will follow as the team begins to meet more frequently when the conference is over. Some of the key people for the conference are key people for the exercise.
- The Chairman, speaking in behalf of the co-chairs of the Conference Subcommittee, provided an update on preparations for the upcoming LEPC conference at the Trade Center. Mr. Garner said arrangements for all of the speakers have been firmed up and it looks like we're heading for another outstanding conference. He said the pre-conference workshops were also lined up, and available slots in those classes were filling up fast. He then asked Dusty Rominger, a member of the Conference Subcommittee to provide an update on corporate sponsors. Mr. Rominger said sponsorship was down a little this year, but there was still a little time to work that out. Mr. Garner informed the membership that the LEPC would likely have to dip into its own bank account to help fund the conference. He said the Executive Committee was unanimous in

support of using our LEPC funds to support the conference. The Chairman also pointed out that in our annual fundraising letter, it is clearly stated that a portion of the funds are used to support our annual conference.

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### **New Business (Cont.)**

- Larry Martin, co-chair of the Plans Subcommittee, said that the committee met on July 12 and the CFD will be determining the software vendor of choice by the end of August. He said this software may well fit the needs of the LEPC, and that the committee should know more by the September meeting. Mr. Martin went on to say that the LEPC is responsible for developing an emergency response plan for chemicals in the community, and the public has the right to access certain information, such as workplace chemical lists, Tier II reports, and MSDSs under the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA). As suspected, and later confirmed following a meeting with Mr. Bob Colby of the Air Pollution and Control Bureau, the LEPC is within its legal right to withhold certain information (deemed confidential) from the general public. This information, in part, is why the CFD is looking for the appropriate computer software to accommodate this additional information vital to the safety of first responders and the general public.
- Joyce Wagner, co-chair of the Programs & Outreach Subcommittee, said that her committee was still looking for a sponsor for the September 19 LEPC meeting. Ms. Wagner said prospective sponsors should plan for about 35 people.
- Amy Maxwell, co-chair of the Membership Subcommittee, welcomed the new members inducted at the last meeting and introduced the following individuals as prospective new members: Michael Thompson of Synair, Bill Allen of the Chattanooga-Hamilton County Planning Agency, and George Sivils of Dupont.

The Chairman then asked for a motion to accept the new members. A motion to that effect was made by Larry Martin, seconded by Bob Diehl and unanimously confirmed by the committee at large. Mr. Allen added that he was Chairman of the Highway Incident Management Task Force and was working to improve safety on area roadways and was looking forward to working with the LEPC.

The Chairman informed the committee that there is a need to form a short-term Nomination Subcommittee for the upcoming officer elections (Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons) during the LEPC's September meeting. The Chairman reminded everyone that the LEPC must elect its Chairman from the incumbent Executive Committee members. He added that the Chairman and all vice-chairs are eligible to be re-elected, though the current Chairman is limited to one more term. The chairman then asked for volunteers for the committee. The following members present said they were

willing to serve on the nomination committee: Bob Diehl, Dane Creel and Caroline Williams. The Chairman asked Mr. Diehl to serve as chair of that subcommittee, and Mr. Diehl agreed to serve in that capacity.

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There being no further business to discuss, the Chairman asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Bob Diehl made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Brian Lopez-Cepero, followed by committee approval.

The next meeting was tentatively scheduled for September 19, 2001 at the Barnhill's Buffet on Gunbarrel Rd. Look for a forthcoming meeting notice announcing the precise date, location and time.